

From: Bob Nies
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement offer

Needless to say this is a giant canard. Microsoft is a convicted monopolist. Microsoft has done more to inhibit competition in the last 10 years of any company in the world. The deal is a sweetheart gift to the attorneys (they get the cash), Microsoft gets to buy the rotting pile of unsold PC's that are stacking up at Compaq, HP and Dell, on the cheap, thus bailing out its main distributors. Oh yes, they will buy of few Macs (all obsolete with the new OS X now out) and give away software that costs little more than the cost of the CD's they are burned on.

Wake up, that deal won't fly and is detrimental to the competition that has suffered the most from Microsoft's dirty play. Without Apple innovation where would the computer industry get its ideas to produce itself out of the current slump. By everyone's score (even Bill Gates), innovation is the future of the computer industry and competition is the driving force to making it happen. Any settlement that harms Apple is grounds for another lawsuit.

Microsoft has the cash (32+ billion). Come up with a 25¢ on the dollar cash settlement of the properly calculated damages, and let these poor schools spend the money, i.e. pay cash for whatever computer and software that they deem best for their students. This is the proper way to help all players in the industry (man would there ever be some fantastic deals given to move inventory) and clear the decks for the next generation of hardware and software. Let the marketplace determine what's best for the students!

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